

withdraw the amendment and refile it at the bottom of the pile.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The amendment is withdrawn.

CLERK: Senator Warner would move to amend. Senator Warner is excused. Senator Chambers has the next amendment to the committee amendments. Madam President, Senator Chambers is excused. Senator Beutler, I'm back to you, Senator. (Beutler amendment appears on page 1123 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Beutler, would you like to open on your amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, the amendment is being passed out to you. The...first of all, let me start out by indicating that I am not opposed to subsidies for these particular plans and plants, and I have always supported ethanol subsidies, I think probably more so over the years than anybody except Senator Schmit himself. But I am concerned about the scale of these particular subsidies and I am concerned about the current appropriation of a large amount of money over a period of seven or eight years, and I would like to suggest to you that perhaps we would be better off appropriating less money now and waiting to see what the situation is in a year or two. It's a very, very unusual situation in this body when we try to anticipate seven years down the line what the needs may be on something as inexact as this particular project is concerned. You have been given handouts so far that indicate that the money needed on this particular project may be anywhere between \$45 million and I think the upper figure was about \$85 million. The bill that you have before you basically would allow, in the event that the people administering the fund saw fit, would allow the continuing appropriation of as much as \$90 million. So in other words, this bill plans for the very worst-case scenario and, in fact, has a little extra money in it as I read it, even assuming the worst-case scenario. So what my amendment does is a couple of things. First, with regard to the one cent excise tax, it reduces it to three-quarters of a cent. Then in addition to reducing it to three-quarters of a cent, it phases out the credit, and as you can see from the amendment, which I hope is in front of you now, the credit is at the full half cent for the years '95 and '96 and then it's reduced to a quarter cent for the years '97 and '98 and then there is no credit thereafter. The effect of doing that is this. With regard to what is